

COMMUNITY COHESION POLICY HAVEN HIGH TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Introduction

The *Diversity and Citizenship Curriculum Review* published in February 2007 states that:

“...we passionately believe that it is the duty of all schools to address issues of ‘how we live together’ and ‘dealing with difference’ however controversial and difficult they might sometimes seem.”

The Education Act 2002 states that:

“The curriculum for all maintained schools should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the college and of society, and prepare pupils at the college for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.”

The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 states that:

“Schools have a duty to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.”

In light of these documents, and the changes to the diversity of the local community, Haven High Technology College has written this policy to ensure that the students of this college are equipped to be tolerant and useful members of their college community, the local community and the global community. This policy naturally links to our policies for Race Equality, Equal Opportunity and Disability.

It is also important to us that we build effective partnerships with our local community. These include partnerships with businesses, agencies, other schools as well as the diverse community of learners in Boston.

What is ‘community cohesion’?

*By community cohesion, we mean working towards a society in which there is a **common vision** and **sense of background** by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people’s backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar **life opportunities** are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community (Alan Johnson 2006).*

At Haven High Technology College, we welcome all members of the local community, regardless of nationality; socio-economic background; religion and beliefs; cultural or ethnic group and regardless of sexual orientation or disability/ability. Whilst all minority groups are supported and valued in our college, the main area of focus for this policy are racial, ethnic, cultural and religious groups due to the recent changes to Boston following economic migration.

Our community cohesion policy sets out how we aim to bring all members of our college, local and global communities together and how we ensure all members of these communities feel represented and valued. The policy has been set out to show how we promote community cohesion within certain aspects and areas of college life. It also sets out how we are building partnerships within our community and beyond to widen the experiences of our students.

Admissions

As referenced in our other policies, our Admission Policy at Haven High Technology College has always been one of inclusion.

- We will not present ourselves in such a way as to deter parents from particular communities.
- We translate information for families for whom English is an acquired and developing language.
- We have a comfortable and wheel chair friendly foyer where initial meetings take place.

Teaching, Learning and Curriculum

- Our curriculum will support cohesion through specific subjects like RE, PSHE and Citizenship, but also within other subjects.
- Collapsed timetable days will provide the opportunity for students to experience other cultures and nationalities and allow our international students to feel valued and supported.
- Our EAL provision will develop English as an additional language, and also support the home languages of our students.
- We will invite different agencies and individuals into assemblies to broaden the experiences of our students.
- We continue to develop links with the school in Gambia which our students have helped to build.
- We encourage our students to be outward facing.

Equity and Excellence

- We will encourage all our students to participate fully in the life of college and to strive for success.
- We will enter students in a range of examinations, from GCSE and AS levels to Vocational qualifications.
- We will not allow anything to act as a barrier to success and we will work towards eliminating variations in outcomes for different student groups.
- Faculties will report on the progress of different groups of students such as EAL, G&T and SEN as well as the different genders. Our student tracking systems will include information on EAL, G&T, SEN and reading/spelling ages so we can ensure effective learning for all students. We will identify areas of underachievement and act accordingly.
- Financial support is available as part of our G&T programme to eliminate barriers to extended learning.
- Partnerships are encouraged between students, faculties and schools to develop excellence for all.

Engagement and Extended Services

- As a Full Service Extended School, we will provide a range of activities outside of the curriculum as well as a base for the support services for children and families in the area.
- We will continue to be a hub for external agencies to come together for the benefit of our community.
- We will continue to be a hub for local schools delivering extended provision and liaise between the schools to ensure effective and proactive provision.
- Our international staff will offer translation services for members of the community for whom English is an acquired language.
- Learning will be available to anyone, either in college or in Haven Online. This is available at least 48 weeks of the year.

The Commission on Integration and Cohesion states;

Meaningful contact between people from different groups has been shown to break down stereotypes and prejudice. Contact is meaningful when: conversations go beyond surface friendliness; in which people exchange personal information of talk about each other's differences and identities; people share a common goal or share an interest; and they are sustained long-term (so one-off or chance meetings are unlikely to make much difference).

The following states how we aim to promote and develop contact between different members of our college, local and global communities.

College to College-

- Our race equality work is highly regarded locally by other schools, teacher training centres, the police and local race equality groups. We will continue to offer guidance, training and support in this area.
- As a federation with Carlton Road Primary and Staniland Primary , we will continue the successful projects developing curriculum links and cross phase learning and teaching.
- We will provide meaningful primary liaison work especially within our specialism of Technology.
- We will work in partnership with local schools to ensure effective extended provision.
- We will work in partnership with local schools and other groups to maintain a school in Gambia.
- In partnership with other local schools connected to our Technology College status we will work in an advisory capacity regarding EAL.
- Members of our staff will provide training for colleagues in other schools on teaching strategies and in teaching EAL.
- We will continue to offer translation support when needed.

College to parent and the community-

- We will continue to work together with Haven Online to provide training and support for the local community. This will involve classes for those for whom English is an acquired language and also a group of disabled adults. We will provide opportunities for them to gain recognised qualifications and allow them to work together with members of the community they might not usually mix with.
- We will continue to host conferences, meetings and training events in Haven Online for the local and wider community.
- We will continue the strong links with alternative curriculum providers for older students whom might otherwise become disaffected.
- We will continue to participate in a reciprocal arrangement with a local charity which provides placements for volunteer workers in our college and places our students in community groups.
- We have a full-time 'children and family counsellor' who will continue to work with our students and those of other schools.
- We will host meetings between parents and local agencies such as social services and Sure Start , EBSS and other LA Children's Support Services.
- We will work with the local Parent Support Advisors to meet the needs of local families.

College to local authority and other partners-

- We will work with the LA to provide support and assistance to promote community cohesion.
- We will continue to provide advice or example to other schools in this area based on our experience, over a number of years, in dealing with the challenges facing schools in meeting the needs of different communities.
- We will support a member of staff who is a Lead Practitioner (Community) for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. She will support local schools to develop their community strategy.
- We will continue to be active in other community groups such as BAP and the Chamber of Commerce, where representatives of the different groups in our community can meet to discuss local needs and how to meet them.
- We will continue to develop partnerships with local organisations and businesses to support the school in Gambia.
- We will meet with the local Community Cohesion Officer for Boston Borough Council, to extend the contact between our students and the local community.
- We will work in partnership with business leaders in the community to support their employees with further learning and training.
- We will work in partnership with businesses to enable our students to gain an understanding of what local employers want and need.